

FAILED TO LEAVE AFTER VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE? YOU COULD FACE A CIVIL PENALTY.

 If you have been granted voluntary departure, do not assume that simply missing the deadline has no consequences.

The Board of Immigration Appeals recently addressed this issue in Matter of R-P-L-, 29 I&N Dec. 859 (BIA 2026).

In that case, the respondent had been granted voluntary departure but failed to leave the United States within the time permitted by the Immigration Court.

DHS subsequently imposed a \$3,000 civil monetary penalty for failing to comply with the voluntary-departure order.

The BIA upheld the penalty, concluding that DHS properly imposed the civil monetary penalty under INA § 240B(d).

Failure to depart after being granted voluntary departure can have serious consequences, including:

- A civil monetary penalty
- Loss of certain immigration benefits
- A possible removal order
- Additional immigration consequences in future applications

Immigration laws and procedures are complicated, and the consequences can be significant. If you are facing a voluntary-departure deadline or have received a notice concerning a civil penalty, contact Moreno Law Office, LLC about your specific situation.

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